



City of Cincinnati

Date: January 23, 2003

For Immediate Release

Contact: Greg Baker
Telephone: (513) 352-2977

CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CITIZEN COMPLAINT AUTHORITY

City Manager Valerie A. Lemmie today announced the appointment of **Nathanael L. Ford** as the Executive Director of the newly created Citizen Complaint Authority (CCA). The creation of CCA is an important part of both the Collaborative Agreement and the Department of Justice's Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Ford was the unanimous choice of the partners of the Agreements, the City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Black United Front (CBUF), Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio. Mr. Kenneth L. Lawson, attorney for the CBUF, stated, "I appreciated the way the City Manager allowed all parties to agree on the new director. The Manager's desire for all Parties to agree is starting off with the appearance of being fair." Mr. Roger Webster, President of the FOP, stated, "It is our hope that Mr. Ford will work within the four corners of the Agreements and ensure that investigations are conducted in a fair and professional manner."

As Executive Director, Mr. Ford will be responsible for ensuring that serious interventions by police officers, including shots fired, deaths in custody, and major uses of force, be investigated in a fair and efficient manner. He will begin work in mid-February with a starting salary of \$96,000. The establishment of CCA is a cornerstone to improving police-community relations in the City of Cincinnati.

Mr. Ford has thirty years of public service experience. He has served as Deputy Chief of Police and Captain of both the Community and Internal Affairs Divisions for the Toledo Police Department. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Toledo-Lucas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, an intergovernmental board designed to promote coordination between governmental agencies and to improve the criminal justice system through planning, analysis, and information management. Throughout his public service tenure, he has conducted police investigations, served as a liaison to a Civilian Advisory Board, managed Toledo's largest Police Bureau, and developed and implemented police training. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo specializing in Labor Relations, Police Administration and Business Management.

“Mr. Ford’s wealth of knowledge and experiences will be an asset not only in overseeing sensitive investigations, but also in closing the gap among concerned citizens and police,” said Mayor Luken.

“Mr. Ford’s excellent communication skills and wide array of experiences with police practices and working with diverse groups for resolution made him an excellent candidate. I am confident that Mr. Ford will have a lasting positive impact on Cincinnati’s police-citizens relationship,” said City Manager Lemmie.

“Cincinnati is a wonderful city, the Queen City, and I am looking forward to being a part of a positive process to rebuild citizen’s faith and trust in a fair and equitable process of impartially investigating allegations of police misconduct,” said Mr. Ford. “I believe our work here will set the standard for cities throughout the country that attempt to address similar concerns.”

#